

On a new Species of Hemipode from New Britain. *Ibis*, 1882, p. 428, pl. xii.

We are glad to be able to add that Mr. Forbes's collections and journals have been brought safely to England. We hope to be able to give some account of his birds (about 200 specimens) in our next number.

We much regret also to add to the list of lost friends the name of our valued contributor, Mr. THOMAS GRIDDALE, author of the article "On the Birds of Montserrat" in last year's volume of '*The Ibis*' (1882, p. 485). Mr. Griddale died on the 31st of January last, aged 41 years. He was Chief Clerk in the Receiver and Accountant General's Department of the General Post Office. Mr. Griddale was devotedly attached to the study of Birds and Bird-life.

XXXV.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letter addressed to the Editors of '*The Ibis*':—

Northrepps Hall, Norwich,
May 24, 1883.

SIRS,—Mr. Seebohm, at p. x of the interesting introduction to his work on British Birds, has the following remark:—"It seems possible also that in some cases there may be a direct influence of climate upon colour," *i. e.* in the plumage of birds. This fact may be illustrated by the following circumstance, which, so far as I can recollect, has not hitherto been recorded*, viz. that the "Scarlet Ibis," when brought alive to this country in full adult plumage, loses its gorgeous crimson colouring at the next moult and assumes a rose-coloured livery, which it retains as long as it survives in this country.

* [But *cf.* 'Guide to Gardens of Zool. Soc. of London.' "Nothing can be more intense in colour than the Scarlet Ibis, when its plumage is developed under the hot sun of tropical America. In Europe, however, it rarely reproduces that gorgeous livery; and at each successive moult the adult birds usually become more pale."—EDD.]

Mr. Bartlett has been so good as to inform me that he has verified this by observations, during a long series of years, on specimens that have been placed in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London.

Yours &c.,
J. H. GURNEY.

Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union.

The Annual Meeting of the B.O.U. for 1883 was held at 6 Tenterden Street on Wednesday, the 30th of May, at 6 P.M., Lord Lilford, the President of the Union, in the Chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the accounts for the volume of 'The Ibis' for 1882 (copies of which were on the table) were discussed and passed.

The Secretary to the Committee appointed in 1877 to prepare a list of British Birds read the report, and copies of the List of British Birds were placed on the table. The report of the Committee was adopted, on the resolution of Mr. Selater, seconded by Mr. Howard Saunders. A vote of thanks to the Committee was proposed by Mr. C. B. Wharton, seconded by Canon Tristram, and carried; and Mr. Selater returned thanks on behalf of the Committee.

It was then proposed by Mr. W. T. Blanford, and seconded by Mr. Tegetmeier, that the Committee be authorized to arrange with Mr. Van Voorst as to the publishing price of the List of British Birds; and this resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

The following new Members were then balloted for and duly elected:—

Ordinary Members. James Davidson, 32 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh; Henry Parker, C.E., Public Works Department, Ceylon; Edmund Gustavus Bloomfield Meade-Waldo, Rope Hill, Lymington, Hants; Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 7 Grafton Street, London, W.; William Herbert St. Quintin, Scampston Hall, Rillington, Yorks; Serope B. Doig, Public Works Department, Bombay; and T. M. Pike, Westport, Wareham.

Professor Othniel Charles Marsh, of Yale College, New-haven, U.S., was elected a Foreign Member of the Union.

The Meeting then adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was proposed by Canon Tristram, seconded by Mr. W. T. Blanford, and carried unanimously.

The Annual Dinner, which was subsequently held, was attended by about 30 members of the B.O.U. and guests.

More Novelties from Lower California.—Mr. Ridgway writes to us that the United States Museum has lately received some more good things from their collector in Lower California, the most interesting of which are additional specimens of *Turdus confinis* (an “excellent species”) and examples of a new and very distinct *Junco*, a new *Psaltriparus*, a remarkable new *Anthus* (most like *A. pratensis*!), besides examples of several new geographical or local races or subspecies. This collector, at the time of writing, had only commenced his season’s work, this being his first instalment, and more discoveries were expected.

New Birds from the Argentine Republic.—The last numbers of the ‘Journal für Ornithologie’ contain several articles by Dr. Cabanis upon the collection of birds recently made by Herr Fritz Schülz in the upper provinces of the Argentine Republic. The new species described are :—*Colaptes longirostris* (J. f. O. 1883, p. 97), *Cinclus schulzi* et *Phlœotomus schulzi* (ibid. p. 102), *Chloronerpes tucumanus* (ibid. p. 103), *Troglodytes auricularis* et *Scytalopus superciliaris* (ibid. p. 104), *Orospina pratensis* (ibid. p. 108), *Phrygilus dorsalis*, *Buarremon citrinellus*, *Placellodomus sincipitalis* et *P. maculipectus* (ibid. p. 109), *Chloronerpes frontalis* et *Synallaxis superciliosa* (ibid. p. 110). *Orospina* is a new genus of Fringillidæ, allied to *Sycalis*. The discovery of a Water-Ouzel so far south in the New World is of great interest. Herr Schülz met with it on the mountain-brooks of the Cerro Vayo of Tucuman. Herr Schülz has also himself described *Unipolegus cabanisi* from the same district (J. f. O. 1882, p. 462).

New Genera and Species of Count Salvadori.—In our notice of the last volume of Salvadori's 'Ornitologia della Papuasìa' (*anteà*, p. 219) it should have been mentioned that three new species—*Hydralector novæ-hollandiæ* (p. 309) from Australia, *Rhipidura finschi* (p. 532) from New Britain, and *Stigmatops blasii* (p. 543) from the Moluccas—were described in it.

In our notice of the same author's 'Prodromus' of the Grallatores of Papuasìa (Ibis, 1882, p. 606) it should likewise have been stated that two new genera—*Neoscolopax* (type *Scolopax rochussenii*, Schleg.) and *Zonerodius* (type *Ardea heliosyla*, Lesson)—were characterized for the first time.

The National Collection of Birds.—The portion of the collection of birds in the British Museum kept in unmounted skins (nearly 100,000 in number) has now been removed to the new Natural-History Museum in South Kensington, and is under process of arrangement in one of the one-storied galleries of the west wing. The mounted specimens (10,000) will shortly follow, and will be placed in the lowest of the three great galleries of the same wing.

In the lately issued Parliamentary Report the following account is given of the accessions in 1882 in the class of Birds.

"The number of accessions was 3574, the following being the most important :—

"The additions to the groups of British birds, presented by Lord Walsingham (*viz.* Long-eared Owl, Jay, Garden-Warbler, Whitethroat, Stonechat, Hawfinch, Redpoll, Cuckoo, and Snipe), by Lord Lovat (Grouse and Curlew), and by T. Harcourt Powell, Esq. (Golden-crested Wren and Greenfinch).

"Two specimens of Audouin's Gull from the Mediterranean, a species previously unrepresented in the collection ; presented by Lord Lilford.

"A specimen of *Puffinus kuhlii* from Malaga ; presented by Col. Irby.

“A collection of 85 Gulls and Terns from various localities ; presented by Howard Saunders, Esq.

“Three species of Titmice from Russia and Central Asia, new to the collection ; purchased.

“Thirty-six specimens from various localities between Eastern Siberia and the Straits of Malacca ; collected and presented by Dr. A. McKinlay, of H.M.S. ‘Mosquito.’

“Forty-two specimens from North China, collected by the late Capt. Ince ; presented by Mrs. Ince.

“A series of 190 Timeliine birds from the Himalayas ; presented by H. Seebohm, Esq.

“A collection of 291 specimens made in Gilgit by Major J. Biddulph.

“A specimen of the rare *Trochalopteron jerdoni* from Coorg ; presented by A. O. Hume, Esq., C.B.

“Thirty-five specimens from the Nilgherri hills ; presented by W. Davison, Esq.

“The complete set of the birds collected by E. W. Oates, Esq., during his twelve years’ residence in Pegu, and consisting of 1544 specimens ; purchased.

“The type specimen of a Hornbill (*Buceros subcylindricus*) ; purchased of the Zoological Society.

“Two specimens of Honey-suckers new to the collection (*Melilestes iliolophus* and *Ptilotis cinerea*) ; received from the Museo Civico, Genoa.

“Thirty-five specimens collected in the province of Wasa, Gold Coast, and presented by Major Burton and Captain Cameron.

“Four species from Benguela new to the collection (*Fiscus souzei*, *Sylviella ruficapilla*, *Parus rufiventris*, *Nilaus affinis*) ; presented by the Lisbon Museum.

“Sixty-eight specimens from Mombasa, East Africa ; presented by the Rev. H. Fowell Buxton.

“Fourteen specimens from the Orange river ; presented by Dr. Bradshaw.

“A selected series of 177 specimens and 373 eggs, collected by the Rev. W. Deans Cowan in the Betsileo country.

“Seven specimens from Madagascar, among which are *Mesites variegata* and *Hypositta corallirostris*; purchased.

“Eighteen specimens from the Amirante and Glorioso Islands, and 157 specimens from Torres Straits, collected by Dr. Coppinger during the survey of H.M.S. ‘Alert,’ and presented by the Lords of the Admiralty.

“A specimen of a rare Kingfisher (*Alcyone pusilla*) from Eastern Ceram; presented by Hr. J. G. F. Riedel.

“A large series from the Astrolabe range of mountains in South-east New Guinea, collected by Mr. A. Goldie, and containing many new or rare species; purchased.

“Fifty-one specimens from New Britain and Duke-of-York Islands; collected by the late Hr. Kleinschmidt, and purchased of the Godeffroy Museum.

“Twenty specimens from Bermudas, Nova Scotia, and Natal, including a specimen of a species of Pipit recently described (*Anthus butleri*); presented by Capt. Savile G. Reid.”

Note on the Breeding of Phœnicopterus antiquorum.—My friend Mr. Abel Chapman, who has devoted much time and attention this spring to the exploration of the marisma to the south of Seville, writes to me as follows upon the question of the nesting of the Flamingo:—“I found a ‘pajarera’ early in May—many nests all together and others studded round in the shallow water. I visited this colony on the 9th and 11th May, but was disappointed in not finding any eggs laid by the latter date, when I was obliged to leave the marisma. However, I obtained sketches of the nests, and *birds sitting on them*, on both occasions. The nests were only 6 to 8 inches above the water or mud, as the case might be; and *the legs of the birds were doubled up*, their knees projecting beyond their tails, and the marks of their legs were distinctly visible on the side of the hollow top of the nests after the birds had gone.” So now it would appear that the position of the Flamingos on their nests is finally settled: they do *not* sit astride, but double their legs beneath them like other brooding birds. As regards the time of laying: on a former visit to the marisma, Mr. Chapman found that

a few eggs were deposited by the 24th May. We expect that Mr. Chapman will shortly give us further details of his personal experiences upon a ground which, although visited by several ornithologists, is by no means worked out.—H. S.

Mr. Seebohm's Excursion to the Dobrutscha.—Mr. Seebohm has just returned from a bird's-nesting trip to the lower Danube and the Dobrutscha. The season was very late and the river very high; but on the whole he was successful. In one of the large breeding-colonies he found nests of Common Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Little Egret (*A. garzetta*), Squacco Heron (*A. ralloides*), Night-Heron (*Nycticorax griseus*), and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), many trees containing upwards of twenty nests. Colonies of Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*) and of Slender-billed Gull (*Larus gelastes*) were almost destroyed by the Russian fishermen. He was more fortunate with eggs of Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus candidus*), of Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*), of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), and of Little Bustard (*O. tetrax*). He met with small parties of the Rose-coloured Pastor (*Pastor roseus*) and examined their nests of last year. He also met with the Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*), the Siberian Pied Chat (*Saxicola morio*), the Steppe-Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), &c. &c.